

Inspiration for activities & demonstrations*

Demonstrations

Show ear tags; guess the weight of piglets; feeding piglets; show how various 'kit' pieces work - drinkers, heat lamps, tags. Touch a pig, smell feed, listen to the sound of the pigs, look at the different breeds, local butcher sausage making.

Talk about

Traceability, different breeds; the pig year; feed; handling slurry; technology used; why free range/why not; welfare-how your system meets all the pigs' needs; explain about bio-security if on a unit; cuts of meat.

Displays

Tools and equipment used; different feed and supplements used; poster of different pig breeds; poster of cuts of meat.

Questions to ask visitors

Can you think of the foods that are made from pork meat?
Which part of a pig can't you eat?
What other products do we get from pigs?
Do you know how many different breeds of pig there are?
Why do you think I keep this breed?
What are their weights at different ages?
How much weight do pigs put on per kg of feed?

Activity 1: '3 D Piggy' (8+)

Materials

Pig template from www.face-online.org.uk/resources/farmers/3danimals/pig.pdf
white paper card, crayons, felt tips or pencil crayons (pinks, browns, black colours are good).

Instructions

- Download the pig template. If copied on paper, glue it onto card to give it some further support.
- Whilst still flat, colour the pig.
- Use a stapler, sticky tape or glue to join the tabs to complete the pig.

Activity 2: '3 Pigs House Challenge' (8+)

The traditional tale has houses of straw, sticks and bricks. Set the challenge of making these!

Materials

Straw or art straws, small sticks (from around the farm or gathered in the countryside), lolly sticks or match sticks 'bricks' small plastic building bricks, or clay to make bricks, string.

Instructions

Set children the challenge of creating a house for a pig from the materials provided.

Straws can be taped with sticky tape to create 'planks' with which to build. Sticks can be tied with string or if you supply lolly or matchsticks from a craft supplier, then glue can be used or again sticky tape. Toy building bricks fit together! Some quite elaborate structures can be achieved with straw or sticks. Watch the straw one doesn't blow away if you are doing this outdoors!

Activity 3: 'Piggy Numbers' (12+)

A challenging maths based activity for older children that is sure to keep them puzzling about pigs!

Pig farming often involves doing some maths, to help keep track of how well the farm is doing.

1. The farrowing rate tells us the number of sows that have given birth as a percentage of the number of sows that are mated. This can be calculated over a 12 month period by dividing the number of sows that gave birth in the year by the number of sows mated, then multiply your answer by 100.

If 75 sows were mated this year and 60 of them successfully gave birth, what is the farrowing rate (%)?

2. Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) tells us the proportion of food given to pigs that is converted into meat. We calculate this to work out how efficient the pigs are at turning food into muscle. It can be calculated by dividing the feed intake of a pig (in kilograms) by the average weight gained (in kilograms) by the pig each day.

$FCR = \text{feed intake (kg)} / \text{weight gain (kg)}$

If a pig eats 1 kg of food in a day and gains 800 g in weight, what is the FCR of the pig?

The Back British Farming campaign website www.nfuonline.com/backbritishfarming lists the many reasons why British farming should be backed and how you can show your support.

For more information about LEAF and LEAF Marque and how to support our work, please visit www.leafuk.org

** Text kindly supplied by FACE (Farming and Countryside Education)*



Key messages

- Pig farming in Britain is mainly made up of 60% indoor farms and 40% outdoor farms. There are 3 types of outdoor rearing systems, Free Range, Outdoor Reared and Outdoor Bred. In Britain, 60% of breeding pigs (sows) are housed indoors, mostly in straw yards and 40% are kept on outdoor farms.
- Livestock farmers care for their animals 365 days a year – in fact, Red Tractor pig farmers have to meet 130 different standards. All of these are independently assessed to ensure a healthy and welfare-friendly environment for pigs.
- The most popular pig breed in use in England is the Duroc, Landrace or Large White, because of their shape, leanness and ease of keeping. But some farmers keep more traditional breeds, which are becoming popular again.
- Sows (female pigs) give birth after 115 days of pregnancy – which is three months, three weeks and three days!
- Micro pigs and pet pigs are subject to the same laws as farmed pigs. To prevent disease spreading, it is illegal to feed them kitchen scraps.

Speak Out top tips

- Be aware of background noise - pick a spot where everyone can hear you
- Create a circle – put an umbrella in the ground and ask people to stand round it; stand so that no one has your back to them
- Keep it personal – about you and your farm; it will be more memorable
- Be positive – if you are asked a negative question, turn it round and talk about the good things you are doing
- Keep out the jargon - explain the terms you use, e.g. weaners, gilts, finishers etc.
- Make your story relevant – start by talking about food and how your visitors benefit from your produce, rather than starting off talking about farming
- Use props – to illustrate what you are saying
- Talk with everyone – look at everyone, not just the people at the front
- Ask your visitors questions – interact with them, it will help keep their interest
- Engage the senses – encourage listeners to look, listen, smell and touch things to keep people engaged.

Health & Safety

- If you allow visitors to touch your animals, hand washing facilities, signage and supervision are essential
- You must provide: running water, liquid soap and paper towels
- Anti-bacterial hand gels are NOT a suitable alternative to hand washing
- Helpers need to encourage and supervise thorough hand washing
- Locate eating areas away from animal contact areas
- Eating and smoking in animal contact areas should be forbidden to avoid hand to mouth contact
- Ensure animals have clean, fresh bedding and that no bedding protrudes into walk ways
- Ensure yards, walk ways, gates and railings are clean – watch for areas of faecal seepage
- Provide a tap and brushes for visitors to wash mud off boots and pushchairs, followed by hand washing
- Make sure the event is insured and that a risk assessment has been carried out (if you are a helper, please read it)

Read the industry code of practice: 'Preventing or controlling ill health from animal contact at visitor attractions.'

For more health and safety information see the Open Farm Sunday website: www.farmsunday.org

